

## 16. NEW RECORDS OF OFFSHORE FISHES FROM THE WEST COAST OF INDIA

While collecting marine animals in March, 1971 from otter trawl hauls made over a rocky bottomed continental slope off Quilon coast (Kerala) at depths ranging from 135-150 fathoms, the following species were obtained. The sharks, *Scyliorhinus (Halaelurus) natalensis* (Regan) 1904 known from the coast of Natal and *Proscyllium alcocki* Misra, 1950 from the Andaman Sea. A ray *Narcine mollis* Lloyd 1907 known from Gulf of Aden and now reported for the first time from the west coast of India. In addition, a brotulid, *Neobythites squamipinnis* (Alcock) 1889 known from Bay of Bengal and Zanzibar, a triglid, *Trigla hemisticta* Schlegel 1842 from Muscat, off Madras and Japan and a triacanthodid, *Mephisto fraserbrunneri* Tyler 1966 from Andaman Sea and off Somalia are also new records for the west coast of India.

MARINE BIOLOGICAL STATION,  
ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,  
10, LEITH CASTLE SOUTH STREET,  
MADRAS-28,  
July 25, 1973.

K. V. RAMA RAO

17. A NEW SPECIES OF *PUNTIUS* (CYPRINIFORMES : CYPRINIDAE) FROM KHASI & JAINTIA HILLS (MEGHALAYA), INDIA

(With a text-figure)

The fish described here has often been confused with *Puntius ticto* (Ham.) (Day 1889; Misra 1862), for both appear alike due to their small size and presence of spot on the tail. However, a detailed examination of this fish undertaken recently has revealed the fact that it represents a new species closely related to *Puntius ticto*.

***Puntius shalynius* sp. nov.**

*Diagnosis:*

Carp-minnow without barbels, having the last undivided dorsal ray serrated; 6-7 scales in the transverse and 20-23 scales in the longitudinal row; lateral line incomplete, ending on or before 11th scale; two black spots on tail and a horizontal blue line on the body.

*Description:*

B. 3; D. 3/7; P. 13-14; V. 1/7; A. 2/5; C. 18-20

Greatest depth of body 28.6 to 37.8, length of head 26.0 to 34.10,